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Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 2 November 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 November 2010, addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 November 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 1 November 2010 addressed to you by Derviş Eroğlu, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

I have the honour to refer to the speech made by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Demetris Christofias, on 24 September 2010 during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Since, for reasons that are well known, the Turkish Cypriot side is deprived of a right of say in the General Assembly, I am obliged to respond to Mr. Christofias's allegations in writing. However, at a time when the negotiations for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus are under way, and in keeping with the understanding that the parties should avoid mutual recriminations (i.e. the so-called "blame-game"), I will refrain from engaging in polemics with my Greek Cypriot counterpart and content myself with responding only to some of the main points in his address.

Mr. Christofias's reference to the Turkish intervention of 1974 as "invasion" and the subsequent presence of Turkish troops in the island as "occupation" reflects neither the legal nor the historical realities of the island. As you are well aware, none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus refers to the legitimate intervention of Turkey as "invasion" or its continued presence in the island as "occupation". The Turkish intervention of 1974 was perfectly legal under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee and fully legitimate in view of the preceding Greek coup d'état aimed at annexing the island to Greece (*enosis*), which necessitated it.

Currently, Turkey's continued presence on the island is the only effective deterrent against a repetition of the atrocities and ethnic cleansing campaign perpetrated by the Greek Cypriot side against the Turkish Cypriots between 1963 and 1974. A belated admission on the historical facts of that period has recently come from a former Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafkos Clerides, who reflected "We (Greek Cypriots) believed that the Turkish Cypriots would surrender if we isolated them in enclaves. ... this was a major mistake".

What was not mentioned, however, is that with that treatment of the Turkish Cypriots and their accompanying forced expulsion from all organs of the partnership State, the Republic of Cyprus as a legitimate bicommunal State had ceased to exist. The continued claim, after 1963, of the Greek Cypriot side to the title of the "Republic of Cyprus" is devoid of any legal, factual or moral basis; that Republic represents neither the Turkish Cypriot people nor the whole of Cyprus.

Notwithstanding the above, the Turkish Cypriot side, in the decades-long negotiating process, has always acted in good faith and either initiated or accepted major plans for a settlement. The latest instance of this was the Annan Plan presented by your predecessor, which was accepted by the Turkish Cypriots but rejected by the Greek Cypriots in the separate, simultaneous referenda of April 2004.

As you are well aware, our constructive stance at the negotiating table has continued throughout the current process. We have recently presented proposals on the chapter of property, currently under discussion, that are regarded by all concerned as creative, positive and constructive. To improve the atmosphere of the negotiations and help build confidence, among other things, we cancelled the annual military exercises that we hold jointly with the Republic of Turkey. With a reciprocal forward-looking approach from the Greek Cypriot side and demonstration

of political will, we believe it is possible to make progress, even reach a comprehensive settlement by the end of the year.

I, therefore, call upon the Greek Cypriot side to concentrate its efforts on the negotiating table rather than engaging in unnecessary rhetoric; pretending that it is Turkey that is its counterpart in the current process; and resorting to diversionary tactics such as raising the subject of Maras (Varosha), which is part and parcel of a comprehensive settlement.

I would, finally, like to take this opportunity to reiterate that, as I told you in our recent telephone conversation, I gladly accept coming together with you and Mr. Christofias in a tripartite meeting in New York, under your auspices, with a view to adding impetus to the talks and achieving progress, with the sincere hope that the meeting will produce positive results.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Derviş **Eroğlu**
President